

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 13315 150811Z

11
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 150731Z NOV 76
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2751
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, CH
SUBJ: PRC COAL MINISTRY SPPORTS TECHNOLOGY IMPORTS

1. THE NOVEMBER 11 ISSUE OF THE PRC INTELLECTUAL ORGAN
KWANGMING DAILY CARRIED AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY THE COAL
MINISTRY WHICH STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE IMPORTATION OF
ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY. THE ARTICLE WAS SUMMARIZED
IN THE NOVEMBER 12 TA KUNG PAO, A PRC-CONTROLLED HONG KONG
PAPER.

2. THE COAL MINISTRY STATES: MAO CLEARLY POINTED OUT THAT
WE SHOULD "PRINCIPALLY RELY UPON OUR OWN EFFORTS, WHILE
STRIVING TO SECURE SUPPLEMENTARY FOREIGN ASSISTANCE."
THE "GANG OF FOUR" IS ACCUSED OF TAMPERING WITH MAO'S
INSTRUCTIONS AND PERNICIOUSLY MAINTAINING THAT LEARNING
FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES IS INCOMPATIBLE
WITH PRACTICING SELF-RELIANCE.

3. THE COAL MINISTRY STATEMENT ATTRIBUTES KAI LUAN'S
DOUBLING OF COAL PRODUCTION DURING THE 4TH FIVE YEARL PLAN
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PAGE 02 HONG K 13315 150811Z

PERIOD AT LEAST PARTIALLY TO USE OF IMPORTED EQUIPMENT.

THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY PRACTICING SELF-RELIANCE AND BY IMPORTING NEEDED TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT. "IMPORTATION OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IS NEEDED IN SOCIALIST REVOLUTION AND SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION," THE MINISTRY WRITES.

4. COMMENT: WHILE STATEMENTS OF THIS NATURE ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY COMMON IN PRC MEDIA, SUCH UNABASHED ADVOCACY OF IMPORTING FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY IS PARTICULARLY STRIKING IN THAT IT COMES FROM THE COAL MINISTRY. THE CONCEPT OF STEPPING UP EXPORTS OF NATURAL RESOURCES--COAL AND OIL--IN RETURN FOR INCREASED IMPORTS OF WESTERN TECHNOLOGY OF COURSE CAME UNDER SHARP RADICAL FIRE DURING THE ANTI-TENG CAMPAIGN. THE COAL MINISTRY STATEMENT NOT ONLY REFLECTS CHINA'S NEWLY POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD TRADE IN GENERAL, BUT ALSO STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT THE NEWLY REALIGNED LEADERSHIP INTENDS FOR NATURAL RESOURCES--COAL AS WELL AS OIL--TO PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN FINANCING TRADE EXPANSION.
CROSS

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